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Attorney's Docket No. 5577-115CX

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Nguyen et al.  
Serial No.: 09/207,945  
Filed: December 9, 1998

Group Art Unit: 2176  
Examiner: T. Huynh

For: SYSTEMS, METHODS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT/REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment before examining the present application, which is a Continuation Prosecution Application (CPA) of Serial No. 09/207,945 filed December 9, 1998.

**REMARKS**

Applicants provide the present Preliminary Amendment/Request for Reconsideration as part of a CPA to respond to the Office Action (the Action) mailed August 14, 2001. In the Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-17, 19-23, 25, 26, 28-36, 38-42, 44, 45, 47-55, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,999,912 to Wodarz et al. (Wodarz) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,614 to Cuomo et al. (Cuomo). Claims 5, 18, 24, 37, 43, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wodarz in view of Cuomo, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,703 to Leighton et al. (Leighton). Claims 8, 27, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wodarz, Cuomo, and Leighton, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,960,429 to Peercy et al. (Peercy).

Cuomo issued on February 6, 2001, and was filed on May 26, 1998. Therefore, Cuomo is only prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Furthermore, the present application and Cuomo are both assigned to International Business Machines, Inc. Peercy issued on September 28, 1999, and was